AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended)   A method for making additional terms available to a searching process, the method comprising:

    receiving an input string that incorporates a plurality of characters ~~separated by at least one space~~ and at least two intervening spaces, wherein the input string includes N words and N is greater than 3;

    concatenating the plurality of characters to form ~~at least one additional term~~additional terms, wherein the additional terms are $(N-1)(N/2)$ combinations of words selected from the N words based on word adjacency;

    providing the input string and the ~~at least one~~ additional terms to the search process; and

    displaying a search result identified by the search process as being related to ~~the~~at least one of the additional terms.

2. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein,

    receiving an input string comprises receiving an input string that incorporates a first set of characters separated by a space from a second set of characters; and

    concatenating comprises concatenating the first and second sets of characters.

3. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 2, wherein at least one of the first and second sets of characters ~~are each~~is a single character.

4. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, and further comprising preprocessing the input string.

5. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 4, wherein preprocessing includes removing at least one extraneous character from the input string.

6. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1, and further comprising suppressing at least one of the additional terms.

7. (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the method is executed upon a client system.

8. (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the method is executed upon a server.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the input string is a search string.

11-19. (Cancelled)

20. (New)   A method for providing additional search terms to a search process, the method comprising:

      receiving an input string having a plurality of characters and at least two intervening spaces, wherein the plurality of characters form N words and N is greater than 3;

      forming a number of additional terms, wherein the number of additional terms is (N-1)(N/2) combinations of words selected from the N words based on word adjacency;

      providing the input string and at least one of the additional search terms to the search process;

      generating a search result as a function of at least one of the additional terms; and

      providing an output indicative of the search result.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, further comprising excluding at least one of the additional terms from the search process.

22. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein at least one of the additional search terms comprises exactly two of the N words and at least one of the additional search terms comprises exactly three of the N words.

23. (New) The method of claim 22 wherein at least one of the additional search terms comprises exactly four of the N words.

24. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein providing at least one of the additional search terms to the search process comprises providing less than all of the additional search terms to the search process.

25. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein providing an output comprises displaying.

26. (New)   A method for making additional terms available to a searching process, the method comprising:

> receiving an input string that incorporates a plurality of characters and at least two intervening spaces, wherein the input string includes N words and N is greater than 3;

> generating (N-1)(N/2) additional search terms, wherein each of the additional search terms is formed by eliminating some or all of the intervening spaces, and wherein each additional search term is a combination of words in the N words that are adjacent to one another;

> providing the input string and at least one of the additional terms to the search process;

generating a search result as a function of at least one of at least one of the additional terms; and

providing an output indicative of the search result.

27. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein at least one of the additional search terms includes exactly two of the N words and at least one of the additional search terms includes exactly three of the N words;

28. (New) The method of claim 26 further comprising excluding at least one of the additional terms from the search process.